

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1896.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

In order to avoid delays, on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editor, or to the Business Department, according to tenor or purpose.

Think of It!

Representative Connolly of Illinois, in the recent House debate on the free library bill, said:

"You gentlemen who come from rural districts and from the tax-paying part of the great country, think of it! The law limits the rate of taxation on real estate in this District to \$1.50 per \$100 of valuation, and there is no law or regulation made by Congress to determine how the valuation shall be made, and I venture to say that property in this city worth \$10 a square foot is not assessed at exceeding 50 cents per square foot."

The fact that Mr. Connolly refers to the District's assessment—even though it is to misrepresent it—shows that he is aware that the tax-burden cannot be measured by the rate alone, irrespective of the assessment. Extra census bulletin No. 65, showing the finances of municipalities having 4,000 or more of population, gives the official figures not only in respect to Washington but also the municipalities in Mr. Connolly's district and elsewhere in the United States, and a comparison may be interesting.

The highest rate of taxation paid by a municipality in his district is that of Lincoln city \$6.83. Does this mean that the Lincolnite pays over four times as much tax as the Washingtonian with his rate of \$1.50? No. The per capita tax levy, which shows the actual tax burden, is \$10.65 in the case of the Washingtonian and only \$7.93 in the case of the Lincolnite. The former is burdened with a per capita indebtedness of \$8.95; the latter of only \$8.81. The tax rate is rendered unmeaning by the difference in the assessment valuation. That of Washington real estate is, in comparison with other municipalities, so near the true value that it is stated in the census in the same figures. In the case of Lincoln the assessed value is about one-sixth of the true value according to the census bulletin. The same ratio prevails in the two other municipalities containing over 4,000 population in Mr. Connolly's district, including his own city of Springfield, and is even slightly smaller in Chicago.

True value. Assessed value. Washington.....\$123,110,219 \$123,110,219 Lincoln.....3,175,000 229,284 Omaha.....1,417,738 1,417,738 Springfield.....200,000 3,250,984 Chicago.....1,250,000 170,564,147

It thus appears that the half of Washington which does not belong to the government, while it pays four times as much as Springfield, Decatur and Lincoln put together, is assessed at about twenty-four times the aggregated value.

It also appears from the same bulletin, as recently stated in The Star, that the taxed half of Washington under the assessment of 1893 was within ten millions of the (assessed) value of the whole of the great city of the United States, and more than a million of inhabitants, and its numerous and costly business buildings and fine residences.

The lesson of Washington's comparatively high assessment is taught not only by the figures concerning the municipalities of Mr. Connolly's district and of Illinois generally, but by the statistics of some other cities in the United States.

True value. Ass'd value. Washington.....\$123,110,219 \$123,110,219 Indianapolis.....78,128,610 30,000,365 Omaha.....49,348,575 16,515,615 Cleveland.....290,000 72,724,940

One half of the capital is assessed at more than three times the value of all Indianapolis, more than seven times the value of all Omaha, and 75 per cent more than the value of the whole of the great city of Cleveland.

"Think of it!" not only you gentlemen, who come from rural districts, but towns men and seafaring men as well—in fact, everybody, think of it!

If Mr. Connolly's statement that the assessment valuation of Washington property does not exceed 25 cents on \$10 of real value, be applied to the capital's assessment of \$123,110,219, one learns that the real value of the District of Washington is \$4,924,408,760. Thus, in Mr. Connolly's opinion, the true value of Washington is 24 times as great as that of his city of Springfield, which is stated by the census at \$200,000, twenty-four times the value of the whole of Cleveland, over fifty times the value of all Omaha, and over fourteen times the value of the whole of St. Louis.

Will not Mr. Connolly modify his figures and his conclusions based thereon?

The loss of Ex-Commissioner William B. Webb is sincerely regretted. Especially will he be missed in Washington—the city of his birth and the scene of his life's activities. As an official, as a public member of the bar, and as an influential citizen, he contributed liberally to the history of the national capital and found fitting reward in the respect and goodwill of his fellow-Washingtonians.

The announcement that so anciently-discarded a freak as the hoop skirt is again coming into style has filled the bosoms of several statesmen-out-of-jobs with the hope that they too may come into style once more.

The ambitious young men of Kentucky are just now in a quandary as to whether they had better start in studying law or practicing in a shooting gallery.

The financial backer in the presidential campaign is evidently beginning to think that he has not hitherto had enough recognition as a belligerent.

Spain will probably find that this is one of the cases where it does not do to place too much reliance on the proverbial slowness of Congress.

Thawed out by the sunshine, thirty-five men worked today on the city post-office building.

The Home-Coming of Minister Willis. Minister Willis is booked for a homecoming in April, and it is rumored that he may not return to his post. The question is not important in itself. Fortunately for the people of the United States and the people of Hawaii, the bonds that knit them together are now so strong that not even the presence of an American minister in commission at Honolulu distinguished by his known hostility to the government to which he is accredited can disturb the amity that exists between them. The situation is thoroughly understood in both countries. The people of this country have long since disclaimed any responsibility for Mr. Willis, and the people of Hawaii, manifesting a reciprocal spirit of fairness and frankness, have long since charged Mr. Willis with the only source from which he could have emanated. And so it is that Mr. Willis may come or go at his leisure and pleasure without causing the slightest commotion.

But it may be noted in passing how complete has been the collapse of the two men selected by Mr. Cleveland as his instruments in his efforts to turn the hands back on the dial plate in Hawaii. It is entirely proper to speak of both men in the past tense. Both had served the country well in Congress. Mr. Blount for twenty years from Georgia, and Mr. Willis for half that time from Kentucky. Their careers were by no means thought to be finished. Mr. Blount was expected to reappear as Senator, or as governor of his native state, while Mr. Willis was a prospective candidate for his old place in the House. Both, however, while out of office yielded to inducement to undertake work utterly unworthy of them, and both paid a crushing penalty for their weakness. Mr. Blount returned home to sink into obscurity, and Mr. Willis will return to find no welcome outside of the small circle which he represents. His official acts have been repudiated by his countrymen, and there is no reason to believe that he will ever again hold commission from their hands.

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We are able to forego its admission, we put our right of interposition on broader ground. America believes that the right of a people to rise in arms against monarchism is not dependent upon the character of that rule. We believe that monarchism is the rule of the worst republicanism of the world. We believe that the best monarchism is a government that is manifestly corrupt. It is held here that the best monarchism contains the seeds of evil, the worst republicanism the germs of good. Both are to be judged by a broader survey than is afforded by their present state. The United States, in its declaration of the Western Hemisphere to republicanism is manifestly destined; and for promotion of manifest destiny, and for the prime of the world to be ruled by the only source from which he could have emanated. And so it is that Mr. Willis may come or go at his leisure and pleasure without causing the slightest commotion.

But it may be noted in passing how complete has been the collapse of the two men selected by Mr. Cleveland as his instruments in his efforts to turn the hands back on the dial plate in Hawaii. It is entirely proper to speak of both men in the past tense. Both had served the country well in Congress. Mr. Blount for twenty years from Georgia, and Mr. Willis for half that time from Kentucky. Their careers were by no means thought to be finished. Mr. Blount was expected to reappear as Senator, or as governor of his native state, while Mr. Willis was a prospective candidate for his old place in the House. Both, however, while out of office yielded to inducement to undertake work utterly unworthy of them, and both paid a crushing penalty for their weakness. Mr. Blount returned home to sink into obscurity, and Mr. Willis will return to find no welcome outside of the small circle which he represents. His official acts have been repudiated by his countrymen, and there is no reason to believe that he will ever again hold commission from their hands.

It is suggested that if Mr. Willis does not care to return to duty, the American legation at Honolulu, except for the presence of a consul general, may be closed for the remainder of the year. The territory of the White House. No difficulty would result from that. The value of an American minister in any country depends entirely upon his representative character. Mr. Willis has no value whatever at Honolulu. If anything, he is a standing affront to people who are not people of the country, and a warm attachment to the country, he stay there? Or, leaving on a visit home, return there? The people of Hawaii will understand that the closing of the doors of the legation now will be followed by their reopening a year hence by a minister who really represents the United States.

A Use for Analoan Island. Wherever the District Commissioners and Congress may finally decide to locate the contagious hospital there will arise more or less of opposition; more, if the chosen spot is in a thickly settled neighborhood; less, if the site is in a part of the District where the residents are not pugnacious or self-assertive. That Washington must have a completely-equipped contagious hospital is admitted even by those persons whose property appears to be threatened, and the only amendment for which they clamor is one moving that they regard as a menace to the health of the city. The idea of a contagious hospital would be a dissemination of disease is, strangely enough, held by many sensible people, but the number of these is as nothing when compared with the well-informed multitude that simply regards such an institution as undesirable and does not want it near its home.

The presence is likely for awhile to have a depressing effect upon real-estate values. Suggestions of sites have been many but the one most likely to be satisfactory to the majority is Analoan Island.

To this place, though, the Health Officer makes objection. In its present condition and with the present surroundings the island is, says the official unit for hospital purposes, but there is no indication in the adverse opinion that the conditions and surroundings are not amenable to treatment. South and east of the island there is a stretch of marsh land, the drainage and reclamation of which could be easily and inexpensively accomplished; which, being done, the island would doubtless be as healthy as any other site of the level. Then, too, it would be possible to make provision on the island for another undesirable but essential feature of latter-day city life; the area of the island is sufficient to accommodate both the hospital and a reduction-plant where the city's garbage might be profitably disposed of without offense either to the sensitive noses across the Potomac or to the sensitive nostrils at the other end of the island. A reduction-plant is not necessarily odorous, but it is alleged to be as undesirable a neighbor as a contagious hospital is, in the popular estimation, held to be. The two undesirable institutions can easily be accommodated on Analoan Island and if the things which the health officer regards as objections are removed, no reason is apparent why the hospital and perhaps a garbage-reduction plant, should not be located there.

To Pinna Hospitality. A public meeting has been called by the District Commissioners to effect such an organization of citizens as may be deemed necessary to make a hospitable success of the forthcoming encampment of the United States Union Veterans Legion. The meeting will be held this evening at Willard Hall and there ought to be a big attendance. Last October the Commissioners and a number of other prominent Washingtonians invited the Legion to camp here this fall. The invitation was accepted and the veterans are coming; veterans who saw hard service at the front and who are entitled to all the consideration, Washington has played the host acceptably on many occasions, but it has invariably done its best when some of the "boys in blue" were its guests; it will doubtless excel itself when comes the opportunity, to entertain the Legion. From the purely selfish standpoint there is no advantage in the presence of such a multitude as will attend the encampment. The combined influences of sentiment and business should result in a rousing meeting at Willard Hall tonight.

A comparison of the United States with that of Spain shows that the latter is in the state of a weakling, who may offer a clue in explaining that country's display of mingled indignation and patience.

The new congressman who is really desirous of making an exhibition of himself is advised to deliver an off-hand lecture on the relations of the District of Columbia to the national government.

Thomas B. Reed appears to have gotten rather the best of the candidates who are favorite sons of single states by being the favorite son of a large section of New England.

If Mr. James J. Van Allen goes to Chicago care should be taken that he is formally introduced to Mr. Hinky Dink and other of the famous statesmen of that city.

When the Kentucky legislature goes to war it does not waste much valuable time in writing proclamations and superintending the labors of a press censor.

The roundabout news of Spanish reverses in Cuba may have something to do with the gentler tone of General Weyler's recent proclamations.

The United States and Cuba. From the New York Journal.

..... If America bases its claim to the right of recognition and intervention in and degree upon the principle of Spanish title, then the United States must be unobjectionable—which we do not believe—that all that be left out of consideration.

We are able to forego its admission, we put